

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-54 (cancelled)

Claim 55. (currently amended) An assembly for fixing a tube to a patient's mouth for medical purposes, the assembly comprising

tube clamping means for detachably clamping the tube with the tube fixed to the patient's head, the tube clamping means comprising

(a) first positioning means for positioning the tube,

(b) a first tube clamping member,

(c) a second tube clamping member; and

(d) means for hingeable movement of the second tube clamping member with respect to the first tube clamping member

wherein said first positioning means has a top portion that extends above a top portion of the first and second tube clamping members and a bottom portion that extends below a bottom portion of the first and second tube clamping members, said first tube clamping member being fixedly disposed with respect to the first positioning means and having a concave bearing surface which curves toward the top portion of the first positioning means ~~with the tube fixed to the patient's mouth~~, and wherein the second tube clamping member is moveable between a closed clamping position, in which the tube is kept clamped between the first and second tube clamping members with the first tube clamping member extending under the tube, and an open position, in which the tube clamping means can freely receive the tube and the tube can find support on the concave bearing surface of the first tube clamping member ~~which~~

~~provides an upwardly facing bearing surface for the tube,~~ without movement of the first tube clamping member relative to the first positioning means,

the assembly further comprising securing means for detachably securing the assembly around the patient's head, said securing means comprising second positioning means for connecting the securing means to the first positioning means to facilitate positioning of the tube clamping means.

Claim 56. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 55, wherein the first positioning means comprises a positioning plate which is substantially transverse to the first and second tube clamping members and is integrally formed with the first clamping member.

Claim 57. (currently amended) The assembly according to claim 55, wherein the second positioning means comprises an occipital strap and a plurality of flexible, detachable attachment straps that extend between the occipital strap and the first positioning means, the occipital strap comprising slots for the attachment straps, the second positioning means comprising means for adjusting the attachment straps as to length whereby the attachment straps can be secured to themselves on both sides of the patient's head with the ~~tube fixed to the patient's head~~ such that, after the tube is clamped between the first and second tube clamping members, the tube can be fixed to the patient's head.

Claim 58. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 57, wherein the

first positioning means comprises a positioning plate which is substantially transverse to the first and tube clamping members and which is integrally formed with the first tube clamping member, the attachment straps being connected to the positioning plate.

Claim 59. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 57, wherein the means for adjusting the attachment straps as to length comprises velcro.

Claim 60. (currently amended) The assembly according to claim 57 ~~56~~, wherein each of the attachment straps is connected to the plate at a plurality of locations and has a recess between the plurality of locations.

Claim 61. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 57, wherein the occipital strap comprises means for stiffening the slots.

Claim 62. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 61, wherein the means for stiffening comprises a rod extending along a side of the slot.

Claim 63. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 57, wherein the slots are adapted to be disposed at a level with corners of a jaw of the patient with the assembly adapted to fix the tube to the patient's mouth.

Claim 64. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 57, wherein the occipital strap is accommodated in a cap for placement over the patient's head.

Claim 65. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 64, wherein the cap comprises recesses for the patient's ears.

Claim 66.(previously presented) The assembly according to claim 64, wherein the cap is adapted to extend over the patient's head with the assembly adapted to fix the tube to the patient's mouth, the cap comprising means for attachment of care or monitor lines at a front or upper side thereof.

Claim 67. (currently amended) The assembly according to claim 55, wherein the means for hingeable movement provides for hingeable movement of the second tube clamping member about an axis that is substantially parallel to the tube when the tube is received ~~with the tube disposed~~ in the tube clamping means.

Claim 68. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 67, wherein each of the first and second tube clamping members comprises a half oval ring, the means for hingeable movement comprising a hinge, the half oval ring of each of the first and second tube clamping members being connected to each other by the hinge.

Claim 69. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 55, comprising catching means for securing the first and second tube clamping members to each other with the second tube clamping member in the closed clamping position.

Claim 70. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 55, wherein each

of the first and second tube clamping members comprises a protrusion that protrudes inwardly for fixing the tube.

Claim 71. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 56, wherein the positioning plate comprises a slot for the tube.

Claim 72. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 55, wherein the first positioning means comprises a plurality of slots for attachment straps of the second positioning means.

Claim 73. (currently amended) The assembly according to claim 72, wherein the slots are ~~vertically~~ aligned.

Claim 74. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 56, wherein the first positioning means comprises a plurality of slots for attachment straps of the second positioning means, four of the slots being disposed in the plate in a rectangular configuration.

Claim 75. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 56, wherein the positioning plate is adapted to conform to the patient's face.

Claim 76. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 56, wherein the positioning plate comprises a bite member at a rear portion thereof for positioning

between teeth of the patient.

Claim 77. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 55, wherein the first tube clamping member comprises a continuous recess that, at least at an outer end of the first tube clamping member, extends over an entire cross-section of the first tube clamping member, whereby to accommodate a pilot tube.

Claim 78. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 76, wherein the first tube clamping member comprises a continuous recess that, at least at an outer end of the first tube clamping member, extends over an entire cross-section of the first tube clamping member, whereby to accommodate a pilot tube, the positioning plate and the bite member comprising recesses that are aligned with the continuous recess for the pilot tube, the recess in the bite member being continuous over an entire length and cross-section of the bite member.

Claim 79. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 76, wherein the bite member is substantially U-shape in cross-section.

Claim 80. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 76, wherein the bite member and the positioning plate comprise respective concave surfaces and edges at sides thereof.

Claim 81. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 55, wherein the

tube clamping means comprises a synthetic material.

Claim 82. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 69, wherein the first and second tube clamping members collectively comprise snap finger and cam means for detachably snapping the second tube clamping member to the first tube clamping member with the first and second tube clamping members in the closed clamping position.

Claim 83. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 71, wherein the positioning plate is substantially U-shape.

Claim 84. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 55, wherein said first tube clamping member is integrally formed with the first positioning means whereby it maintains its position with respect to the first positioning means during movement of the second tube clamping member between said open and closed positions.

Claim 85.(currently amended) A method for fixing a tube to the mouth of a patient comprising the steps of:

(i) providing the assembly of claim 55;

(ii) clamping the tube in the tube clamping means, with the securing means secured to the patients head and with the tube fixed to the patient's head, by moving the second tube clamping member between the open position and the closed clamping

position with the first tube clamping member fixed to the first position means;
~~wherein said first positioning means has a~~ wherein the top portion of the first
positioning means extends ~~that extends~~ above a top portion of the first and second
tube clamping members and above lips of the patient and a bottom portion of the first
positioning means extends below the first and second tube clamping members and
below the lips of the patient ~~with the tube fixed to the patient's mouth.~~

Claim 86. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 55, wherein the
second positioning means comprises an occipital strap which is accommodated in a
cap for placement over the patient's head.

Clam 87. (currently amended) The assembly according to claim 55, wherein the first
positioning means has top a portion that extends above the first and second tube
clamping members, the top portion comprising first and second parts defining an
opening disposed above the concave bearing surface and extending throughout the top
portion whereby a tube can be inserted from above the top portion between the first
and second parts and onto the concave bearing surface. ~~and a portion that extends~~
~~below the first and second tube clamping members, with the tube fixed to the patient's~~
~~mouth.~~

Claim 88. (currently amended) An assembly for fixing a tube to a patient's mouth for
medical purposes, the assembly comprising

 tube clamping means for detachably clamping the tube with the tube fixed to
the patient's head, the tube clamping means comprising

(a) first positioning means for positioning the tube,
(b) a first tube clamping member,
(c) a second tube clamping member; and
(d) means for hingeable movement of the second tube clamping member with respect to the first tube clamping member,

wherein said first positioning means has a portion that extends above the first and second tube clamping members, and a portion that extends below the first and second tube clamping members, ~~with~~ when the tube is fixed to the patient's mouth, and the second tube clamping member is moveable between a closed clamping position, in which the tube is kept clamped between the first and second tube clamping members with the first tube clamping member extending under the tube, and an open position, in which the tube clamping means can freely receive the tube and the tube can be supported on the first tube clamping member, which provides an upwardly facing bearing surface for the tube, without movement of the first tube clamping member relative to the first positioning means,

the assembly further comprising securing means for detachably securing the assembly around the patient's head, said securing means comprising second positioning means for connecting the securing means to the first positioning means to facilitate positioning of the tube clamping means.

Claim 89. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 88, wherein the second positioning means extends above and below said tube.

Claim 90. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 89, wherein said

second positioning means comprises an upper second positioning means that extends above said tube, and a lower second positioning means that extends below said tube.

Claim 91 (new) The assembly according to claim 55, wherein said assembly comprises a bite member having a concave bearing surface that is conterminous with the concave bearing surface of the first tube clamping member, with the second tube clamping member covering only the concave bearing surface of the first tube clamping member in the closed clamping position.

Claim 92 (new) An assembly for fixing a tube to the mouth of a patient for medical purposes, the assembly comprising

tube clamping means for detachably clamping the tube to fix to the patient's head, the tube clamping means comprising

(a) first positioning means for positioning the tube,

(b) a first tube clamping member,

(c) a second tube clamping member; and

(d) means for hingeable movement of the second tube clamping

member with respect to the first tube clamping member, said first tube clamping member being fixedly disposed with respect to the first positioning means, and said second tube clamping member being moveable between a closed clamping position, in which the tube is kept clamped between the first and second tube clamping members with the first tube clamping member extending under the tube, and an open position, in which the tube clamping means can freely receive the tube and the tube can find support on the first tube clamping member,

the assembly further comprising securing means for detachably securing the assembly around the patient's head, said securing means comprising second positioning means for connecting the securing means to the first positioning means to facilitate positioning of the tube clamping means, wherein the second positioning means comprises an occipital strap, wherein the occipital strap is accommodated in a cap for placement over the patient's head.

Claim 93 (new) The assembly according to claim 92, wherein the cap comprises recesses for the patient's ears.

Claim 94 (new) The assembly according to claim 92, wherein the cap is adapted to extend over the patient's head and the assembly is adapted to fix the tube to the patient's mouth, the cap comprising means for attachment of care or monitor lines at a front or upper side thereof.

Claim 95 (new) The assembly according to claim 92, wherein the second positioning means comprises a plurality of flexible, detachable attachment straps that extend between the occipital strap and the first positioning means, the occipital strap comprising slots for the attachment straps, the second positioning means comprising means for adjusting the attachment straps as to length whereby the attachment straps can be secured to themselves on both sides of the patient's head.

Claim 96 (new) The assembly according to claim 95, wherein the means for adjusting

the attachment straps as to length comprises velcro.

Claim 97 (new) The assembly according to claim 95, wherein each of the attachment straps is connected to the plate at a plurality of locations and has a recess between the plurality of locations.

Claim 98 (new) The assembly according to claim 95, wherein the occipital strap comprises means for stiffening the slots.

Claim 99 (new) The assembly according to claim 98, wherein the means for stiffening comprises a rod extending along a side of the slot.

Claim 100 (new) The assembly according to claim 95, wherein the slots are adapted to be disposed at a level with corners of a jaw of the patient with the assembly adapted to fix the tube to the patient's mouth.